SENTINEL

Fiji and its 'Mountain Devils,"

Globe. The main interest of Fiji centres about the rocky, impregnable forress named Mbau, or "Godland." This Mbau is an island of not more than a mile in circumference, and from its summit the traveler may discourse from two texts-the one being the natural beauties of the Fiji Islands all around, and the other the awful horrors of cannibalism which invested these beautiful regions even as late as 1854. when the conversion of the terrible King Thakombau by the Wes leyan Mission put a check upon it.
At the top of Mbau are the ruins
of the old heathen temple with the historical Great Stone, against which so many victims have been battered to death before being eaten. From this point at sunrise the most beautiful view can b: obtained. As one looks around over the two hundred or more islands, which seem to float on the water like clouds in a solden sky, one naturally calls to mind the late Laureate's line:

On from island to island at the gateways of the day.

Far below the gustening warm the coral reets encircles each cloud like island with a silver lining, and the fringe of cocoanut palms by the shore helps to justify the ex- ulty for impromptu chanting, which pression "knots of Paradise," Each fragment of land in the sea for miles around is as much a hill as an island, giving the impression that the whole group is a collection of the highest mountain tops of some submerged continent, and this idea is tostered by a review of the extremely ancient rites, illus trated by monoliths here and there, which have left their traces in the original religion of the people. But to return to the top of Mbau and the view. One cannot help noticing the prevalence of overhanging crags everywhere, the reason of which is not very far to seek; the constant action of the water upon the basaltic and conglomerate formation of the rocks causes an undermining which is a special feature of the islands. It was due to this that Mbau was, before any land was reclaimed and added to its base, an inaccessible coign of vantage for the "mountain devils" or cannibais that used | So the kangaroo has to go, and it to live there.

the graceful bread truit wave side and bananas clothe the slopes near the shore, and the wilder wood lands are relieved by the papau and the grotesque serew pine. Far out between the islands here the inmates of which are probably, according to ancient custom, singing or whistling for a breeze. They might just as well whistle for the sun to rise, for nothing is more certain than that their whistling will be answered. There is an old philosophical proverb which says: happy is he who wills what is about to happen." It is on this principle, perhaps, that the Fijian whistles superstitiously for the breeze that is bound to come. In all the Pacific nowhere can you get a finer breeze than in Fiji where the humid land atmosphere renders it all the more acceptable. To stand upon the seashore, with the palms swaying and whispering overhead, and tace the sea breeze as it comes murmuring in over the breakers on the coral reet is a most congenial morning exercise. In the calm Pacific, which washes over the coral reefs into the beau tiful lagoons, no one would ever imagine that there lurked thou sands of hungry sharks; nor does one take readily to the still more unpleasant truth that these islands. in general, have been he seene of some of the most hideous cannibal orgico ever enacted among mankind. Yet it is so; and just as Mbau was the hub of all this little cannibal world, so it was Thakombau, or Kakombau (so named because he brought "evil to Mbau") the most interesting figure in its his-This Thakombau was the son of the wicked King Tanoa, who strangled and ate his wives, To show how nearly he approached the standard of Nero in youthful cruelty, it is related of Thakombau that, when he was only six years old, a young man captured from a neighboring hostile tribe was led up to be clubbed to death by this little murderer. It is also recorded that, later in life, when he was a ruling chief, a native accused of slander was brought before him. He had the slanderer's tongue cut out and ate it there and then be fore his eyes, cracking jokes all the while. On another occasion, when a white man came to collect a debt which Thakombau did not feel inclined to pay, he reminded the importunate creditor that in the opinion of Thakombau and his brother chiefs there was nothing in the world so nice as the flesh of the whith man- it was "like ripe bananas. In the good, old days, before

Thakombau turned Christian, it was no uncommon thing for native laborers to leave their work on the spur of moment and hurry off at the sound of the gong to a feast of human flesh. Some dozen might be working in the fields, when a peculiar kind of beating on two drums of different pitch would come from among the hills. Dropping their implements, they would at once hurry off in the greatest excitement in the direction whence the sound came. This peculiar beating of drums was a signal that some mountain tribe had killed one or two of another tribe, and all within hearing were cordially in-vited. * * * An interesting tale is told of old King Thakombau when he was once staying in Sydney on a visit. He took a great lancy to the little granddaughter of Sir Hercules Robinson, and liked her to sit on his knee with her arm round his neck. In this position sometimes she would look
position sometimes she would look
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. up into the old King's face with sudden doubts, and say, in implor- Halt's Family Pills are the best.

ing whispers, "You won't eat me, will you? Please don't eat me-

you wan't will you?' The color of the pure Fijian is a dark red-brown, but this color is only seen now among the few "mountain devils" that are left.

The people of the seashore are of a Malayan-Polynesian mixture, and their color is considerably lighter. Their religion was originally the worship of ancestors, and the most pronounced of their rites has been described; but that is all altered now-the very stone that stood before the heathen temple on Mbau is now converted to Christianity, and stands as the baptismal font in the Thakombau memorial church. One of the most noticeable features of the heathen Fijian is his hair. It is like a crop of Samson wire eyed with the sap of the mangrove and trimmed up into fearful and won-derful imitations of natural objects. They are so particular about their hair that they have a special kind of wooden pillow designed for the purpose of preserving its symmetry when they are asleep. Tobacco smoking is a favorite habit among them. The natives grow and manufacture their own tobacco, and smoke it in the form of cigarettes rolled up in dried plantain leaves, in the choice of which they are most particular.

The language of the Fijians is one of the most beautiful in the Southern Hemisphere, and lends itself fluently to their strange facthey have most probably inherited along with some of the strange and mysterious torms of ceremonial magic which have come down to them from a very remote antiquity. Any one who has listened to the pure Fijian language delivered y a native orator-and there are many of them-is inclined to agree with the poet, who did not exaggerate its beauty when he sang:

It melts like kisses from a female mouth, And sounds as if it should be writ on

Sport in Australia.

English Illustrated Magazine. The kangaroo is the principal victim of the chase, and its timid ity and swiftness of foot commend it to the sportsman who likes his sport minus unnecessary danger, as much as its appetite for grass intended for sheep and cattle condemns it in the eyes of the farmer. does go in a variety of methods. Everywhere the vegetation is most luxurious. Tree terns and and it is shot, either by stalking and it is shot, either by stalking by side on the islands; cocoanuts in the particular case of the kan or driving. The last named is not, garoo, a very sporting method. The animal is when flurried as dazed as any hare. Considerations of sport are, moreover, suband there may be seen a canoe, such vermin, and the guns are in servient to the desire to destroy consequence so posted, and in such lumbers, that the animals have no chance of escape. Few animals of such size die more easily, and a very indifferent marksman, with a twelve bore loaded with No. 2 shot will generally, at close quarters. bring down any kangaroo that is driven by him. I have seen large wallabies killed with no more than half a dozen pellets in the head and chest. But the best method of bringing down the larger kangaroos is unquestionably by stalking with a well sighted rifle. In this there is real sport, or the near-

est approach to sport that the

larger marsupials offer, and the

working two or three miles to lee-

ward over parched sand and scrub

peopled by fierce insects and yen-

omous snakes. Any little excitement that the sportsman may hanker after will be furnished at a moment's notice by his placing himself between a black snake, or death-adder, and its hole in the neighboring rock. or by his disturbing a tarantula or two. I know a surveying engineer, who, on one occasion, some where in tropical Queensland, placed his nose, when laying down his chains, within an inch of an enormous basking centipede, and has not, twenty years afterwards, forgotten the horrible shock on seeing the repulsive creature close to his face. Had it laid hold, he was a dead man. Cooler and more peaceful is the moonlight ramble after the smaller marsupials that carry beautiful and much coveted skins, and wander forth at night amid the gum trees. By a marvellous protective instinct these animals stiffen their bodies and remain motionless at the sound of footsteps in the dry undergrowth, and, save when the experienced skin hunter gets them in line with the moon's friendly disc, and critically reads their secret. they thus escape many a charge of shot. Even when discovered and plugged with lead, their prehensile tail and curved claws often cheat the gunner of his prey, and the corpses sway amid the gum branches that, then more than ever, resemble gallows trees. Easiest to see are the little native bears (bears in name only, and weighing no more than a few pounds) and, easiest to hear and distinguish, too, amid the few characteristic voices of the b'ash, is their blood curdling cry when badly hit. I once heard a monkey's voice under similar circumstances, but it was a glad whisper next to the swan song of the koala.

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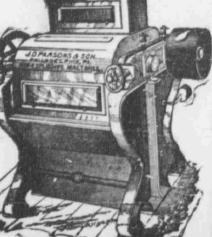
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